

Lamprey TRC Annual Report November 2008

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
NH Senate President, Sylvia Larsen
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, Terie Norelli
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas S. Burack
and the State Library

November 1, 2008

by the
Lamprey River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Lamprey River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2008. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, “The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library.”

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Lamprey TRC at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/trc.htm>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH maintains a Lamprey Instream Flow Project website at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/lamprey/>.

The Technical Review Committee of the Lamprey Instream Flow Pilot Program met June 9, 2008 at NH Fish and Game Department offices. Normandeau Associates presented the results of the draft Proposed Protected Instream Flow report. The Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report is the document that goes before a public hearing and after revision becomes the Protected Instream Flow Report presented to the Commissioner for establishment as the Designated River's water quality standards. The draft report was made available for download from the Department's FTP site.

Three key areas of assessment were described: surveys for human uses like boating and swimming, floodplain transect method for riparian vegetation and wildlife, and incremental flow-habitat modeling for fish. The incremental assessment method named MesoHABSIM is a habitat simulation model that identifies the availability of habitat based on stream flows for representative fish species. The floodplain transect method compares water levels at a range of stream flows to elevations of riparian vegetation zones on the banks and in the flood plains of the river. Flow needs to sustain the seeding and growth of the native riparian vegetation in these zones will be determined using this method. Human flow interests can be determined using questionnaires and surveys.

On September 22, 2008 the draft final Lamprey Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report was completed and made available on the FTP site. Another TRC meeting was held October 23, 2008 at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests offices. The presentation was repeated and

details of what was needed to resolve the committee to send the report to a public hearing were discussed. The committee decided to submit further comments during the next week and meet again in early to mid-November. DES would like to go to a public hearing in early January and hopes to complete revisions and establish the protected flows by March 2009.

LAMPREY RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

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